

The water is studded with trees that have been dead long enough to lose their branches and part of their bark. Bushes and cat-tail flags border the inside of the horseshoe, while beyond the dead trees is a fringe of mixed growth of willows, ash and elm. The adjoining fields are not at present in cultivation. While wading through this swamp on the 6th of June, 1909, I observed two Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris americana*) making trips to one of the dead elms with something in their beaks. As they were not very timid, the spot they were visiting was easily located. A strip of bark about eight inches wide had drawn away from the tree and a nest was placed behind this and about twelve feet from the water. It did not contain young, as I expected, but the surface was covered with small pieces of bark, evidently the objects that the birds were carrying. I left the nest undisturbed and returned the following week. During an hour's wait no creepers visited the tree, though I thought I heard one's note. The nest was still empty, possibly deserted, and, as it was very doubtful whether I would have another opportunity to visit the nest, I collected it. The nest was placed between the bark and the trunk, filling the crescent-shaped opening. Some coarse material, sticks and pieces of bark, formed a framework for the support of the nest proper which was composed almost entirely of downy material, packed rather closely. The downy material appeared to be a mixture of fine shreds of bark and a cotton-like substance. The width of the nest was four and a half inches at the top and the depth was about three and a half. Mr. Widmann, after examining the nest, felt sure that it was of last year's make. Its condition indicated that young birds had been raised in it at some time. Perhaps the pieces of bark that were being added were in the nature of repairs. On the 20th of June the tree was again visited for a short time but no creepers were heard. On the 27th of June, I entered the swamp at a point about a half mile from the 'Creeper tree' and was fortunate enough to find a pair of Creepers feeding in the live growth of willows and ash. They did not act as though feeding young, the only thing in any way peculiar in their actions being the fact that one bird, on two occasions, flattened itself out on a horizontal limb, with wings and tail extended, and remained in that position for several seconds. Other birds frequenting the swamp were Flickers, Hairy, Red-headed, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, White-eyed Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chats, Redstarts, Yellow-throats, Prothonotary Warblers, Crested Flycatchers, Bronzed Grackles, Redwing Blackbirds, Green Herons, Chickadees, and Titmice. One Black-billed Cuckoo and a Song Sparrow were also seen, both rather rare breeders in this part of Missouri.—NORMAN DEW. BETTS, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*

▲ **Colony of Hermit Thrushes at Yaphank, Long Island, N. Y.**—On the afternoon of the 25th of July, 1908, I heard an unfamiliar bird song in the woods at the easterly end of the village of Yaphank, not far from the middle of Long Island. Upon investigation I found several of the

birds, but as they sang from the tops of the pines or other trees, it was difficult for me to secure a good view with my glass. Early the next morning I was more fortunate, and secured a much better view of a rather tame bird, and was convinced that I had to do with Hermit Thrushes (*Hylocichla guttata pallasi*) resident on Long Island in mid-summer. This idea, however, was not strengthened by an examination of the literature, and it seemed from the records quite improbable that a colony of Hermit Thrushes should reside so far south as Yaphank, Long Island, and only 40 feet above the level of the sea.

Later I read with interest the article by Mr. Francis Harper in 'The Auk' for October, 1908, wherein he records a Hermit Thrush singing in the woods between Holbrook and Patchogue, Long Island. He also mentions the two previous Long Island records for immature birds and quotes from Dr. Braislin that, "Further investigation will probably show that the Hermit Thrush is, though rare, a regular summer resident on Long Island."

From observations made during July, 1909, I may state that the Hermit Thrush is one of the most common birds at Yaphank, and that I have heard as many as four singing at one time. On one occasion on the 31st of the month, one sang for over an hour with only momentary intermissions caused by its changing its position among the trees, or by my approaching too near. It, however, was a tame bird, and very accommodating. I found that the thrushes were not only abundant in the pitch pine and oak woods at the easterly end of the village, but that they were to be met with in the woods several miles to the north, in the vicinity of Longwood manor house. This district appears then to be the chief summer home of the Hermit Thrush on Long Island, and the ornithologist may with certainty expect to hear this fine songster if he but repair to Yaphank at the proper season.— WM. T. DAVIS, *New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.*

North Carolina Notes.— DOVEKIE (*Alle alle*). This bird appeared in numbers on the North Carolina coast last winter. In January, 1909, reports came in of a small black and white "duck, with a bill like a chicken," hitherto unknown, these reports covering the coast line from Roanoke Island to Beaufort. A man living on the point of Cape Lookout told me that he had seen not less than fifteen or twenty dead ones washed up along shore, and that flocks of them "used" in Lookout Cove during the winter. The game warden at Cape Hatteras said that they were on Pamlico Sound in flocks of hundreds. Flocks were also reported from Core Sound. Several were taken at Beaufort and forwarded to northern ornithologists. The Museum received three specimens in the flesh, all from Beaufort, and two skins from the coast a little south of Roanoke Island. From what I can learn there was a flight of Dovekies on this coast about twenty years ago, with only a very few stragglers recorded since. All those found dead were reported as much emaciated, as was certainly the case with the three received by me.